

hostage. And it is partisanship. It is "We have to do this, take away power from the people."

Oh, isn't it supposed to be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people? But, oh, I think my colleagues across the aisle have forgotten that. They think it is government for the powerful, government that is in control of one party and one party's agenda. That is what they are thinking.

This attack on the integrity of our elections is a complete betrayal of the trust that the people have given elected officials because we have colleagues across the aisle who are basically looking at their constituents in their various States and saying: Your opinion does not count.

Think about that.

You are not good enough. You are not smart enough. You can't handle it. So, hey—Federal Government—we are going to come and save you from yourselves. That is what they think.

It is their constitutional prerogative to determine the time, place, and manner of their own elections. That is what is given to the State legislatures. It is their prerogative, and it is not the job of Congress or the President or a battalion of unelected, faceless, nameless, unaccountable bureaucrats to burn down the goalposts when things at the ballot box don't go their way. But that is exactly what the Democratic Party is trying to do this week.

So you never will be able to complain to them. They want to hold all the cards. The purpose of this latest power grab isn't to make the people feel secure. Its purpose is to inject hysteria into what should be a very serious conversation about actually protecting the vote.

Everything the people hear from the Democrats this week will have been scripted to minimize truth and maximize chaos. Remember, they want you to believe that elections are in crisis.

"We have to fix it."

But, fortunately, Tennesseans and the American people know better than to believe what they are hearing on the nightly news and to believe what is coming from the Democratic Party. They also know there is only one reason a political party would work this hard to make elections easier for them to manipulate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled at 5:30 commence immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

# CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 612, Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Thomas R. Carper, Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Edward J. Markey, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Baldwin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "Nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 3 Ex.]

## YEAS—64

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Inhofe	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Burr	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Capito	Leahy	Smith
Cardin	Lee	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Sullivan
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	
Hassan	Portman	

## NAYS—30

Barrasso	Cornyn	Cruz
Blackburn	Cotton	Daines
Boozman	Cramer	Ernst
Braun	Crapo	Hagerty

Howley	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Johnson	Paul	Shelby
Kennedy	Risch	Thune
Lankford	Rubio	Toomey
Lummis	Sasse	Tuberville
Marshall	Scott (FL)	Young

## NOT VOTING—6

Cassidy	Hoeven	Ossoff
Feinstein	Hyde-Smith	Sanders

(Mr. HEINRICH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The yeas are 64, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

### TRIBUTE TO JACK BRAMMER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, when Jack Brammer interviewed me in 1984 for one of the first profile pieces of my political career, I quickly saw the high quality of his reporting. He was even-handed, fair, and honest—and has remained so throughout his 43 year career as the Lexington Herald-Leader's statehouse reporter. Jack has always been among the best journalists in the Commonwealth. Today, in honor of his retirement, I recognize him for standing at the pinnacle of Kentucky journalism for over four decades.

Jack Brammer is a lifelong Kentuckian. A native of Maysville, he joined the Lexington Herald-Leader in 1978 and has covered State politics ever since. We met in 1984 during my initial race for the U.S. Senate. Though many considered me an underdog, facing off against an entrenched incumbent, Jack took extensive time to interview me for his Herald-Leader profile. He even visited my parents in Shelbyville, sitting with them for hours to discuss my background and upbringing.

In today's era of journalism, when so much reporting takes place via text, tweet, and email, Jack's methods might seem startlingly old-fashioned. But he kept up his same dogged style, always going above and beyond to deliver the complete, unabridged truth to Kentuckians. He is a journalist in the best mold of the profession: unafraid to report the facts, presented without editorializing, and allowing his readers to come to their own conclusions. I will miss Jack's steadfast commitment to the truth, which can often seem sorely lacking in today's fast-paced, cut-throat media industry.

In his 43 years on the statehouse beat, Jack covered nearly every major